



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana State Board of Education
FROM: Office of School Accountability, Indiana Department of Education
RE: Accreditation Petition for Harriet Tubman School of Excellence (HTSE)
DATE: June 2, 2021

This memorandum provides a summary of the information provided by the school in the petition and in any submitted revisions, as well as the Department's comments regarding the accreditation of HTSE.

Background & Demographic Information

Harriet Tubman School of Excellence (HTSE) is a fifth grade school located in Indianapolis. HTSE intends to open as a fully in-person school, with contingencies for hybrid instruction for COVID-19 related circumstances, serving the Devington Community in Indianapolis. HTSE currently does not hold accreditation with an accreditation provider, nor is it affiliated with any education affiliate organization. HTSE describes its mission as "...to impact the lives of every scholar that comes into our care by creating an enriching educational experience through an intense academic curriculum, emphasis on holistic development, and meaningful civic engagement. HTSE's describes its vision as "...to eradicate poverty; to end generational curses; and to raise the bar of education."

HTSE intends to serve 45 students in fifth grade upon opening, but ultimately intends to expand by adding a grade level every year to ultimately serve fifth through eighth grade, with a target student population of 180 students.

Operations

Facilities: HTSE currently operates in a building located at 5950 E. 46th Street Indianapolis, IN 46226. HTSE has provided documentation verifying that the facility meets Department standards for student occupancy.

Tuition: HTSE indicates that their annual tuition is \$9,620. HTSE has indicated that if accredited, it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

Staffing: HTSE's current Head of School is Jeremiah Lockett, Jr. HTSE does not currently employ any teachers, but has expressed that it intends to hire more teachers in the future, with preference given towards applicants that hold valid Indiana teaching licenses. HTSE has provided assurances indicating it will utilize the services of an Indiana-licensed teacher to administer state assessments.

Academic Programming

Curriculum and Instruction: HTSE utilizes Great Minds as its curriculum provider for math, science, and English/language arts, and McGraw Hill's Indiana Impact curriculum for social studies. HTSE has indicated that both Great Minds and McGraw Hill's curriculums are aligned to Indiana State Standards.

In addition to assessments created by HTSE and provided by Great Minds and McGraw Hill, HTSE also utilizes NWEA three (3) times per year to assess student growth and mastery. HTSE



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also intends to administer daily formative assessments in the form of exit tickets, quizzes every seven (7) to ten (10) days, and exams at the conclusion of each unit and semester.

HTSE has contracted with GradeLink for its Student Information System (SIS). GradeLink is Indiana Ed-Fi certified with Ed-Fi Data Standards, and HTSE has indicated to the Department that it has capacity to produce and submit all required data reports to the state in an accurate and timely manner.

HTSE's main instructional philosophy is "...the belief that God has given every person unique gifts and talents, and has a specific purpose for their life. We believe that the purpose of 'education', from the Latin educare 'to draw out', is to assist each scholar to grow into and fulfill that purpose, whatever it is. At HTSE, that means preparing scholars for the next step in their journey, whether that be college, a vocation, military service or ministry. We believe that a 'good education' has several key components: Academic Excellence, Whole Life Approach to Learning, and Learning as a Lifelong Process."

As part of the seeking accreditation processes, HTSE submitted signed assurances agreeing to comply with all applicable legal standards and required processes for nonpublic schools as part of its provisional accreditation period and understands that its accreditation may be revoked if HTSE fails to meet any or all legal requirements while holding provisional accreditation.

Department Comments

- HTSE indicates that it has not hired any instructional staff at this time. The Department has concerns with accrediting a school that does not currently have any instructional staff.

Department Recommendation:

The Department recommends Harriet Tubman School of Excellence's petition for provisional accreditation be approved.